

Live Stock and Dairy

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES WM. BURKETT,
Professor of Agriculture, N. C. A. & M. College, and Agri-
culturist North Carolina Experiment Station.
Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully an-
swered.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF LIVE STOCK.

IX.—Some Everyday Feeding Questions Answered.

1. "In feeding horses and mules does hay and corn make a good ration?"

It depends on the kind of hay; timothy and corn make an unbalanced ration, since both materials are low in protein though relatively high in the heat constituents. Oats or bran or both fed in connection with the corn will make a cheaper and more satisfactory ration. When they are given, cut off the quantity of corn fed. If cow pea hay is fed as roughage, corn will make a satisfactory grain feeding stuff.

Using cow pea hay at the A. & M. College it was found that ten pounds of cow pea hay were practically equivalent to ten pounds of bran. The corn-cow pea hay ration is available in all the cotton section and is economical and highly satisfactory.

2. "Is corn stover a good roughage for horses?"

Yes. It is good for horses, cattle and sheep. When shredded it is almost as good as timothy hay. The writer has conducted a number of experiments with this feeding stuff and all show its value in a marked way. It is well to note here that the stalks should not be permitted to waste in the field. Cut them up and stop "pulling fodder." Feed the whole product. It is cheaper and a great deal more feed is obtained. Get a shredder if you can; if this is not possible, then cut up; and if you cannot do that, feed whole.

3. "What is the best grain feed for pigs?"

Not corn as most people use. Neither is wheat bran best. Wheat middlings come the nearest to being ideal since they are more readily digested and are in a more assimilable form for pigs. Mix the middlings with skim milk or butter milk if available, and if not use water. As the pigs grow older some corn can be given until the finishing period when corn can be used solely.

4. "Is clover hay a satisfactory horse food?"

Common red clover makes a splendid horse food, provided it is not moulded. Since clover is somewhat hard to cure, it often comes out of the mow improperly cured. In this condition it is unsuitable as a horse food.

Crimson or annual clover makes an excellent food, but on account of the chaff and fiber about the head, intestinal troubles often occur. As a rule, we think crimson clover should be fed only in moderate quantities and with a variation in roughage material.

5. "Can cottonseed meal be fed to horses?"

Yes. We have used it satisfactorily. All things considered cottonseed meal is the cheapest of all feeds when the digestible nutrients are considered. Two pounds daily can be readily fed. We have noted correspondents in The Progressive Farmer, say they feed as high as four pounds daily. If one can get his horse to eat that quantity, all well and good.

6. "Why are oats such a good horse food?"

Because they contain the various digestible nutrients as explained in previous articles in fairly well balanced form. Other feeding stuffs as a rule are less balanced and are therefore not so good.

Combining two or more serves the purpose and the same results can be obtained at less cost. Bran and corn, half and half by weight, are just about as good as an equal quantity by weight of oats. Let us remember there is no such thing as "single ration for horses."

7. "Is corn a good food for cows?"

It depends on the kind of cow and the use for

which she is kept. If she is for beef, corn is good. But if for the dairy, corn is not a good food, since it does not furnish the milk making constituents.

C. W. BURKETT.

Country Butter for City Markets.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I have just been reading the graduating address of Mr. Kerr. I wish to say I hope it will awaken our people out of the sleep they seem to have fallen into, especially around Raleigh.

In regard the milk and butter question, I see no reason for the shipment of so much from other States, if any. If we poor farmers could have a market where we could sell our few pounds, it would help some, but because we can't fill large demands, we can't sell our few pounds. I have seen farmers carry butter to Raleigh and have to bring it back home, as they could not sell it at all; and it was nice butter, too.

Why don't some business man, or men, go to our little country villages and get themselves in shape and fill orders from the large towns? Of course, we can't keep our butter cool and hard without ice, but with the proper fixtures, a man could take our butter, print and, keep cool, have it engaged, and ship to town.

It would be surprising how much butter was made and sold in one year in Wake County. Even if we can't fill the demand, we could help, and I think our butter would be in demand as much as that shipped from other States, after it was introduced. I hope some one will be induced to take up this business in our little villages. I had better stop, I guess. I am a new subscriber and enjoy reading the many good letters and advice very much. I think Mr. Kerr's article well worth good attention, but it doesn't seem right that because we can't fill a large demand, we can't sell our few pounds.

S. R.

Wake Co., N. C.

Experience in Dairy Work.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

A reader of The Farmer, who is new in the business of farming, says he and his wife have determined to try to have good butter-milk and cream. He says he will furnish her with the best cows, and she writes me that the best butter she ever ate was in the blue-grass country of Kentucky, and asks for a few suggestions as to their method of caring for milk vessels, etc.

You are certainly right for wishing to investigate this part of the work, for a very successful dairyman told me that it was imperative to have scrupulous care in the handling and cleaning of the milk vessels, crocks, pails, etc.; that they should be washed as soon as possible after being used, and that they must be kept free from rust, and that it was economy to throw a rusty pail away at once. Milk and butter take on impurities so quickly and bacteria and disease germs multiply very rapidly, so you must give particular attention to the seams if you use can and finish by rinsing with scalding water in which a little borax has been dissolved, as it disinfects and purifies. Milk vessels should be washed first with cold water, then with hot water in which enough soap or pearline has been added to make good suds; wipe dry, and set right side up in the fresh air and sunshine and they will keep clean and sweet. It is an error to turn them upside down on a table, or to hang them on a stake, for hot air arises and has no way to escape and causes the milk to sour. A great deal of milk is tainted in this way. A good dairyman will have his milkmen wash their hands in a little borax water to cleanse under the nails. It is safe and cheap. Try these few helps.

Scott Co., Ky.

S. H.

If the date on your label is not properly changed within two weeks after you send your renewal, please notify us promptly.

How Dairying Has Enriched Wisconsin.

The dairy business of the United States has received more impetus from three men in the State of Wisconsin during the last score of years, than any dozen men in the world's previous history. I mean, Governor Hoard, Profs. Henry and Babcock. I'll not enlarge, for each one is a chapter by himself. One item I might mention: Their State, denuded of its vast pine forests and timber land, was forty years ago one of the most forlorn and worthless looking States in the Union. Land sold for taxes, and no buyers. To-day, mainly by these three men's work, land sells from \$50 to \$200 per acre. The rich dairy counties have from one to five millions of dollars on deposit in their county banks, their counties out of debt, and probably the richest farming country in the United States. Now this has been under these men's intelligent direction, and the specialized dairy cow.—Col. I. C. Wade.

Experiments in Poultry Feeding.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

In the United States corn is a favorite feed for chickens, though as Professor Wheeler states, common grains "seem practically interchangeable."

In Ontario, an important poultry region, according to Professor Graham, of the Ontario Agricultural College, wheat is the most popular feed. Corn is not used there to so great an extent as in New England, though he believes, from its high fuel value, that it is an important addition to winter rations. Oats, owing to the large percentage of hull, are somewhat indigestible. Barley is very good, and by many considered next to wheat.

The practice of successful poultry raisers and the results of numerous tests show that the day's rations should be made up of both whole grain and grain ground up into a mash.

Opinions differ as to the proper time for feeding whole grain and mash. An objection to feeding mash in the morning, it is stated, is that the hen is likely to become gorged with food and take to the roost for the rest of the day, resulting in her becoming too fat and egg production small. The objection to feeding the mash at night is that it becomes quickly digested, and the bird has not sufficient food to last it during the long winter night; but this objection can be overcome by giving a little whole grain after the mash at night.

In experiments at the West Virginia Station, the egg production was practically the same whether the mash was fed in the morning or at night.

A test at the Utah Station showed that pullets fed dried blood as a part of the ration began earlier than those given none.

The experiments of the New York Station bring out very clearly the importance of providing laying hens with rations containing an abundance of mineral matter, a point sometimes neglected. Rations should be well supplied with lime and phosphates, essential in the formation of bone, shells and tissues. Mineral matter is largely lacking in grains, but can be supplied by animal food, oyster shells and bone ash.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Poor Feebles (about to be operated on for appendicitis): "Doctor, before you begin I wish you would send and have our pastor, the Reverend Mr. Harps, come over."

Dr. Cutter: "Certainly, if you wish it, but—ah!—"

Feebles: "I'd like to be opened with prayer."—Life.

Watch the date on your label and renew before your subscription expires. A paper like The Progressive Farmer cannot be published at \$1 a year unless every subscriber renews promptly.